

**FOOTWEAR MOLDS**

**CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

*04-11-06*  
[0001] The present application is a continuation in part of U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 10/603126, entitled "BREATHABLE WORKSHOES AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING SUCH", filed on June 23, 2003 and assigned to an entity common herewith; and U.S. Pat. Appl. No. 10/602416, entitled "FOOTWEAR PIECES AND METHODS FOR MANUFACTURING SUCH", filed on June 23, 2003 and assigned to an entity common herewith. The entirety of each of the aforementioned patent applications are incorporated herein by reference for all purposes.

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**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

[0002] The present invention is related to footwear, and in particular to footwear including straps.

[0003] The commonly known flip-flop has long been popular with consumers, however, it is often difficult to maintain the flip-flop secure to the foot. Thus, for applications where a person's shoes must be maintained secured to the foot, the flip-flop has proven to be unsatisfactory.

[0004] As a sandal typically includes a strap capable of securing the sandal to the foot, in some cases a sandal may prove satisfactory where the flip-flop fails. However, such sandals often do not provide the ease of use offered by the flip-flop. Further, such sandals are typically made of relatively slick material that does not grip well on, for example, wet floors.

[0005] Thus, there exists a need in the art to address these and other limitations.

**BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

[0006] Among other things, the present invention provides apparatus and methods for manufacturing footwear pieces. In various cases, the apparatus include a footwear form that includes a location mark corresponding to a location of a strap rivet. The footwear form is an inner portion of a footwear mold, and the footwear mold is comprised of an upper portion and a lower portion that at least substantially encompass the footwear form.

[0007] Some embodiments of the present invention provide footwear molds that include a footwear form with a location mark corresponding to the location of a strap rivet. Such a location mark can be, but is not limited to, a metal piece extending from the footwear form.